

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth Street, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: Department of Fish and Wildlife
Wildlife Conservation Board
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 99244-2090

County Clerk (County of): N/A

Attention: Kendall Webster

Project Title: Los Banos Wildlife Area, Expansion 10 (Soares)

Project Applicant: Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB)

Project Location – Specific: APN(s)

073-160-003

Project Location – City: N/A

Project Location – County: Merced

CEQA Region: N. CA

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Benefits of Project:

Protection of cismontane alkali marsh, a sensitive habitat that supports tricolored blackbird, giant gartersnake, Swainson's hawk, and western spadefoot, and to provide future wildlife-oriented public use opportunities, as an expansion to California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Los Banos Wildlife Area. WCB Project Tracker ID: 2023027.

Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Fish and Wildlife, WCB

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out the Project: John P. Walsh, Deputy Executive Director, WCB

Exempt Status: (Check One)

- Ministerial (Sec. 15268):
- Declared Emergency [Sec. 15269 (a)]:
- Emergency Project [Sec. 15269 (b) and (c)]:
- Categorical Exemption. State Section number and type: CEQA Section 21080.28
- Statutory Exemptions, State code Number:
- Other:

Reasons why this project is exempt:

Project involves the acquisition of land for conservation purposes, to preserve open space and habitat, including plant or animal habitats.

Lead Agency Contact Person: John P. Walsh

Area Code/Telephone Extension: (916) 539-8016

If filed by applicant: 1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a notice of exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes, (by this notice) No

Signature: DocuSigned by:
John Walsh

Title: Deputy Executive Director

Date: 5/23/2025

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Section 21108, 21152, 21152.1, Public Resources Code

SCH #:
Posted Date:
Date Received for Filing at OPR: